

## Message Text

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73

ORIGIN EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NEA-11 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /144 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: EA:MSTEARNS/EA/RA:RNETHERCUT

APPROVED BY: EA:HUMMEL

EA/VN:WENZEL

EA/PRCM:ARMSTRONG

EA/TB:TOMSETH

L/EA:VERVILLE

EA/P:ROSEN

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P R 240059Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 015405

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SEATO

SUBJ: GVN REQUEST THAT SEATO CONSIDER PARACEL ISSUE

REF: BANGKOK 1283

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1. DEPT REACTION TO GVN REQUEST TO SEATO SEC GEN STRONGLY

NEGATIVE. BELIEVE THAT IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES INTERJECTION OF SEATO INTO PARACELS AFFAIR IN ANY WAY WOULD HAVE SERIOUS REPERCUSSIONS BOTH HERE, E.G., SENATE HEARINGS ON SEATO, AND ABROAD.

2. DEPT ALSO QUESTIONS COMPETENCE OF SEATO COUNCIL TO ADDRESS QUESTION RAISED BY GVN. PROTOCOL EXTENDS PROTECTION OF TREATY TO "FREE TERRITORY UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE STATE OF VIET-NAM." IN VIEW CONTESTED SOVEREIGNTY OF PARACELS AND SPRATLYS, WE BELIEVE IT QUESTIONABLE THAT PROTECTION OF MANILA PACT EXTENDS TO THESE ISLANDS. USG, FOR EXAMPLE, TAKES NO POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY OF ISLANDS AND WOULD BE UNPREPARED TO CONSIDER THEM AS PROTECTED UNDER TREATY.

3. ANTICIPATE THAT OTHER SEATO MEMBERS, WITH POSSIBLE EXCEPTION THAILAND, WOULD ALSO FIND SEATO CONSIDERATION THIS QUESTION TO BE OBJECTIONABLE, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW FACT THAT SEATO MEMBER (PHILIPPINES) ALSO CLAIMS ISLANDS.

4. FOR BANGKOK: YOU SHOULD INFORM SEATO SECGEN THAT US DOUBTS COMPETENCE OF SEATO TO CONSIDER PARACELS QUESTION AND IS CONVINCED THAT EFFORT TO INJECT SEATO INTO SITUATION WOULD BE HARMFUL TO ORGANIZATION AS WELL AS TO INTERESTS OF GVN. OUR AMBASSADOR IN SAIGON IS COUNSELING GVN ALONG THESE LINES AND HAS URGED VIETNAMESE TO BE CONTENT WITH "NOTIFICATION" OF SEATO AND NOT RPT NOT PRESS FOR CONSULTATIONS.

5. FOR SAIGON: WE ARE SYMPATHETIC WITH PLIGHT OF GVN IN THIS SITUATION AND VIEW WITH CONCERN THEIR EVIDENT AND MOUNTING SENSE OF FRUSTRATION. NEVERTHELESS, WE STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT (A) HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF PROBLEM, SUCH AS REPATRIATION OF CASUALTIES AND PRISONERS, CAN BEST BE ADDRESSED BY QUIET BILATERAL DIPLOMACY AND (B) JURIDICAL ASPECTS MUST BE ADDRESSED THROUGH ARBITRATION IN APPROPRIATE FORUM. DRAWING SEATO INTO PROBLEM WILL NOT SOLVE IT AND WOULD ALMOST CERTAINLY MAKE OTHER APPROCHES MORE DIFFICULT.

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6. IF QUERIED, DEPT SPOKESMAN WILL NOTE THAT SEATO SECGEN HAS REFERRED MATTER TO SEATO MEMBERS FOR COMMENTS. AT THIS JUNCTURE USG VIEW IS THAT THIS IS NOT APPROPRIATE SUBJECT FOR SEATO COUNCIL CONSIDERATION. KISSINGER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGREEMENTS, MILITARY OCCUPATION, COLLECTIVE SECURITY, FOREIGN RELATIONS, ISLAND CLAIMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, RELIEF (ASSISTANCE)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 24 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974STATE015405  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Page Count:** 3  
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**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** BANGKOK 1283  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** kelleyw0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <30-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GVN REQUEST THAT SEATO CONSIDER PARACEL ISSUE  
**TAGS:** MARR, VS, CH, PF, US, SEATO  
**To:** BANGKOK SAIGON  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005